

JUL 31 1964



Telephone:
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GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE
SOMERSET HOUSE
LONDON W.C.2

29th July, 1964.

AIR MAIL

Dear Josh,

I heard recently from Bruce Stocker that you are interested at the moment in the use of demographic data for genetical purposes. I also had a chat about it with Luca at a symposium on computers in medicine at Oxford two weeks ago.

As you will see I am now the medical statistician at our national vital statistics office and I am very interested in trying to orient the medical side towards genetics and chronic disease and away from the classical communicable diseases. There is considerable support for such a move over here but it is not easy to justify the large initial costs to a sceptical Treasury and I am collecting all the information I can on possible uses of this sort of data. Curiously enough no official seems to be upset by the fact that we spend £100,000 per year on measles notification which is virtually useless for any practical purpose!

If you have anything written down on this subject which is in the public domain I should be very grateful for a copy. I was in Washington last week but unfortunately only on a brief visit and the west coast is a long way off.

I forsook bacteriology and genetics about five years ago. At that time Bill Hayes offered me a job in his unit but I decided that my performance as a lab. research worker did not justify taking up full time research so I went over to epidemiology to which my talents, such as they are, seem better suited. Since then I have seen your name in the news from time to time but have lost touch with the subject which appears very difficult and rather dull these days. I saw a little (too little) of Larry Morse when he was at Geneva and he gave me some of the current news; but did not fill me with a desire to get back to bacterial genetics, though I still miss bench-work very much.

I hope you and Esther are well and happy. It would be very nice to see you both again one day. If I get back to the U.S. again I shall make a determined attempt to get to the west coast. I was out at UCLA not long ago but the extra 500 miles north was too difficult at the time.

Best of wishes to you both.

Yours,

Chris

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